

Application No.: 10/727,714
Filing Date: December 5, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants note that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference (BPAI) affirmed the prior claim rejections in its decision dated October 27, 2010. Along with the foregoing amendments, Applicants file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to reopen prosecution of this application. The filings are timely as they are within two months from the date of the decision from the BPAI. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reopening of prosecution of this application.

Claim Amendments

In this paper, Applicants have amended Claim 12 and 35 to further distinguish the prior art of record. The claim amendments are supported by the original disclosure, including Figures 5A and 5B and their associated description in the specification. Claim 17 has been amended to conform to the US practice. In order to expedite the prosecution, Claims 27, 28 and 36-38 are canceled without prejudice. As such, no new matter is added by the amendments. Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 12, 15-17 and 35 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions which may be answered by telephone, he is invited to call the undersigned directly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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